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Resolution 1974-04-20 Wilderness Areas and An Intermediate Land Classification

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 3

INDIAN SUPERIOR RIGHTS

WHEREAS, recent Federal Court decisions relating to Indian Treaties and fishing and hunting rights have provided superior rights to Treaty Indian people; and

WHEREAS, one of the continuing goals of these United States of America has been to create equality among all of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, these superior rights are creating serious adverse problems relating to the fish and wildlife resource; and

WHEREAS, unless these superior rights determinations are modified by the Congress of the United States, the fish and wildlife resource will be in serious jeopardy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Congress of the United States to study existing treaties with all tribes of American Indians to determine changes necessary to achieve the goal of equal rights for all its citizens and to insure protection of the fish and wildlife resource.

Resolution 4

WILDERNESS AREAS AND AN INTERMEDIATE LAND CLASSIFICATION

WHEREAS, the Wilderness Act of 1964 now protects the ecological integrity of approximately 11 million acres of public land within the United States; and

WHEREAS, the existing wilderness system protects a diversity of habitat types that will accommodate the major species of wildlife that demand a wilderness environment; and

WHEREAS, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior have identified an additional 14 million acres of undeveloped public land that could be added to the National Wilderness System; and

WHEREAS, wilderness objectives handicap development of fish and wildlife resources and utilization of fish and wildlife and other renewable resources; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of habitat types and management objectives within the wilderness system precludes standardization of management criteria, and creates ambiguities that are confusing to wildlife agencies and the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges all federal agencies having responsibility for the classification and management of public lands to:

1. Maintain high quality standards for "wilderness areas" but be more discriminating in the selection of candidate areas;
2. Create an "intermediate" land classification that can be used to identify and protect the "back country" character of selected units of undeveloped public lands but permit judicious management of wildlife, timber, forage, and minerals with minimum losses of remoteness and ecological integrity;
3. Cooperate with state wildlife agencies in the development of fish and wildlife management plans for all "wilderness" and "back country" areas which will clearly define management objectives and acceptable practices for each unit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the International Association urges the Congress of the United States to require that all future "wilderness" proposals originate through the orderly process of evaluation that is prescribed in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Resolution 5

AMENDING THE FEDERAL RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES ACT

WHEREAS, land control through ownership is essential for states to continue meet-